



## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **Coast Guard**

### **33 CFR Part 165**

**[Docket Number USCG-2023-0353]**

**RIN 1625-AA00**

**Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Temporary final rule.

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**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone June 30, 2023, through July 4, 2023, on the Kanawha River, Charleston, WV, for events associated with the Charleston Sternwheel Regatta. The safety zone will cover all navigable waters between mile marker 58 and 59. This action is necessary to protect regatta participants, the public, and the marine environment from potential hazards created by a regatta, as well as fireworks. This rulemaking prohibits persons and vessels from being in the safety zone unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Ohio Valley or a designated representative.

**DATES:** This rule is effective from 9 p.m. on June 30, 2023, through 9:45 p.m. on July 4, 2023. This rule will be enforced: 9 p.m. through 11 p.m. on June 30, 2023; 11:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. on July 2, 2023; and 9 p.m. through 10 p.m. on July 4, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2023-0353 in the search box and click “Search.” Next, in the Document Type column, select “Supporting & Related Material.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions about this proposed rulemaking, call or email MST1 Chelsea Zimmerman, Marine Safety Unit Huntington, U.S. Coast Guard; (304)733-0198, [Chelsea.M.Zimmerman@uscg.mil](mailto:Chelsea.M.Zimmerman@uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**II. Table of Abbreviations**

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FR	<b>Federal Register</b>
NPRM	Notice of proposed rulemaking
§	Section
U.S.C.	United States Code

**II. Background Information and Regulatory History**

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to authority under section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553(b)). This provision authorizes an agency to issue a rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment when the agency for good cause finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this rule because it would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest to do so. We must establish the safety zone by June 30, 2023, in order to protect the public from potential hazards associated with the planned events and we lack sufficient time to request public comments and respond to these comments before the safety zone must be established. Potential hazards could be falling debris from firework displays launched over the river, or marine casualties while transiting the safety zone during sternwheel races.

For those same reasons, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. Delaying the effective date of this rule would be impracticable and

contrary to the public interest because immediate action is needed to respond to the potential safety hazards associated with the Charleston Sternwheel Regatta taking place on the Kanawha River, Charleston, WV.

### **III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule**

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034. The Captain of the Port Ohio Valley (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the Charleston Sternwheel Regatta will be a safety concern for anyone between mile marker 58 and 59 on the Kanawha River, Charleston, WV, starting June 30, 2023. This rule is needed to protect participants, vessels, and the marine environment in these navigable waters for the duration of the event.

### **IV. Discussion of the Rule**

This rule establishes a safety zone from 9 p.m. on June 30, 2023, until 10 p.m. on July 4, 2023. The safety zone will be enforced: 9 p.m. through 11 p.m. on June 30, 2023; 11:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. on July 2, 2023; and 9 p.m. through 10 p.m. on July 4, 2023. The safety zone will cover all navigable waters between mile marker 58 and 59 on the Kanawha River, Charleston, WV. The duration of enforcement of the safety zones are intended to protect participants, vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards associated with firework events and a regatta.

### **V. Regulatory Analyses**

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

#### *A. Regulatory Planning and Review*

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a “significant

regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on size, location, duration, and time-of-day of the safety zone. Vessel traffic will be able to safely transit around this safety zone which would impact a small, designated area of the Kanawha River for 3 hours or less where vessel traffic is normally light. Moreover, the Coast Guard would issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM marine channel 16 about the zone, and the rule would allow vessels to seek permission to enter the zone.

#### *B. Impact on Small Entities*

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the safety zone may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please call or email the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small

Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

*C. Collection of Information*

This rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

*D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments*

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

*E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted

for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

#### *F. Environment*

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves 3a safety zone that will be enforced on three separate occasions, each occasion lasting 3 hours or less that will prohibit vessels from all navigable water between mile marker 58 and 59 on the Kanawha River, Charleston, WV. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60(a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 1. A Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket. For instructions on locating the docket, see the ADDRESSES section of this preamble.

#### *G. Protest Activities*

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to call or email the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places, or vessels.

#### **List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165**

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

## **PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS**

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05-1, 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

2. Add § 165.T08-0353 to read as follows:

### **§ 165.T08-0353 Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV.**

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: all navigable waters between mile marker 58 and 59 on the Kanawha River, Charleston, WV.

(b) *Definitions.* *Designated representative* means a Coast Guard Patrol Commander (PATCOM), including a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer designated by or assisting the Captain of the Port Ohio Valley (COTP) in the enforcement of the regulations in this section.

*Participant* means any person or vessel registered with the event sponsor as a participant in the race.

*Spectator vessel* means any vessel not registered with the event sponsor as a participant in the race or assigned as an official patrol vessel.

(c) *Regulations.* The Coast Guard may patrol the event area under the direction of a designated Coast Guard Patrol Commander. The Patrol Commander may be contacted on Channel 16 VHF-FM (156.8 MHz) by the call sign “PATCOM.”

(1) All persons and vessels not registered with the sponsor as participants or official patrol vessels are considered spectators. The “official patrol vessels” consist of any Coast Guard, state or local law enforcement and sponsor provided vessels assigned or approved by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, to patrol the event.

(2) Spectator vessels desiring to transit the regulated area may do so only with prior approval of the Patrol Commander and when so directed by that officer and will be operated at a no wake speed in a manner which will not endanger participants in the event or any other craft.

(3) No spectator vessel shall anchor, block, loiter, or impede the through transit of participants or official patrol vessels in the regulated area during the effective dates and times, unless cleared for entry by or through an official patrol vessel.

(4) The Patrol Commander may forbid and control the movement of all vessels in the regulated area. When hailed or signaled by an official patrol vessel, a vessel shall come to an immediate stop and comply with the directions given. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the area, citation for failure to comply, or both.

(5) Any spectator vessel may anchor outside the regulated area specified above, but may not anchor in, block, or loiter in a navigable channel.

(6) The Patrol Commander may terminate the event or the operation of any vessel at any time it is deemed necessary for the protection of life or property.

(7) To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP's representative by VHF-FM marine radio channel 16 or phone at 1-800-253-7465. Those in the regulated area must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the designated representative.

(8) The COTP will provide notice of the regulated area through advanced notice via local notice to mariners and broadcast notice to mariners and by on-scene designated representatives.

(d) *Enforcement periods.* This safety zone will be enforced: 9 p.m. through 11 p.m. on June 30, 2023; from 11:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. on July 2, 2023; and from 9 p.m. through 10 p.m. on July 4, 2023.

Dated: May 26, 2023.



H. R. Mattern,  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,  
Captain of the Port Ohio Valley.

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